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Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A method for treating liver fibrosis In a mammalian subject comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an FXR agonist.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the FXR agonist is a compound of Formula ~~(II)~~ (I)

wherein X^1 is CH or N; X^2 is O or NH; R and R^1 are independently H, lower alkyl, halogen, or CF_3; $R^2$is lower alkyl; R^3 and R^4 are independently H, lower alkyl, halogen, CF_3, OH, O-alkyl, or O-polyhaloalkyl.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the FXR agonist comprises a compound of Formula ~~(I)~~-(II):

4. (Original) A method of reducing or preventing development of liver fibrosis comprising administering to a mammalian subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an FXR agonist.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the FXR agonist comprises a compound of Formula ~~(II)~~-(I):

wherein X^1 is CH or N; X^2 is O or NH; R and R^1 are independently H, lower alkyl, halogen, or CF_3; $R^2$is lower alkyl; R^3 and R^4 are independently H, lower alkyl, halogen, CF_3, OH, O-alkyl, or O-polyhaloalkyl.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the FXR agonist comprises a compound of Formula ~~(I)~~ (II):

7 (Original) A method according to claim 1 where said FXR agonist is not a naturally occurring bile acid.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 4 where said FXR agonist is not a naturally occurring bile acid.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1 where said FXR agonist is a synthetic small molecule organic compound.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 4 where said FXR agonist is a synthetic small molecule organic compound.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9 where a naturally occuring bile acid is administered concurrently with said FXR agonist.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 10 where a naturally occuring bile acid is administered concurrently with said FXR agonist.